

Benevolence Committee Guidelines

Our Father Lutheran Church

Benevolence Committee Purpose

The purpose of Our Father Lutheran Church's (OFLC) Benevolence Committee (Committee) is to prayerfully distribute the benevolence funds raised by the congregation to further support God's Kingdom and expand the mission and vision of OFLC. These Christian mission partners may include:

- local organizations serving the greater Denver Metropolitan area
- national organizations serving in the US but outside the greater Denver area
- international organizations serving countries outside the US.

Priority shall be given to organizations whose mission aligns with that of OFLC.

Benevolence Committee Charter

The Committee functions as a **Parish Council Committee** and is chartered by and reports directly to the Parish Council. The following topics are addressed in the Benevolence Committee Charter (Charter):

- Committee composition, selection, and qualifications
- general Committee responsibilities
- Committee meetings.

Benevolence Committee Membership

The Committee composition, selection process, and member qualifications are described in the Charter. Committee members are expected to:

- pray for wisdom and discernment in decisions made by the Committee, and for the current mission partners
- attend four meetings a year (one per quarter) to distribute benevolence funds
- attend an annual planning session
- actively participate as liaison to one or more existing mission partners
- actively participate in vetting new ministries and organizations who request benevolence funds from OFLC.

Benevolence Committee Responsibilities and Meetings

The Committee has the following responsibilities:

- solicit applications for benevolence funding from within or outside the congregation,
- review benevolence funding requests submitted to the Committee for alignment with these Guidelines, financial soundness, and other criteria set by the Committee,
- approve or deny requests for support,
- allocate available funds to approved mission partners quarterly,
- periodically request an update from each mission partner, including financials and an operations update, and

Benevolence Committee Guidelines

Our Father Lutheran Church

- report to the Parish Council and congregation regarding the committee's function and giving. These reports will be made periodically through the website, announcements/prayers of the Church, and occasional forums.

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis for the purpose of distributing benevolence funds, approximately four to six weeks following the end of each quarter. The Committee meeting in which first quarter funds are distributed is considered the Committee's annual meeting, during which the Committee establishes the plan for funding mission partners for the upcoming year. A simple majority of Committee members in attendance at any meeting is needed to approve Committee actions.

Funding Guidelines

The purpose of establishing guidelines for the disbursement of benevolence funds is to ensure consistency and good stewardship in the Committee's efforts. As representatives of the congregation, the Committee is accountable for making sure valuable gifts and offerings are used responsibly and in support of OFLC's mission to help "Ordinary people know and share extraordinary life in Christ". These guidelines are not intended to replace prudent and prayerful decision making. All disbursements require approval of the Committee.

All benevolence funding should support Christian organizations:

- that are aligned with OFLC's mission, values, measures, and strategy,
- that have healthy stewardship and financial practices and strong long-term viability,
- That meet physical as well as spiritual needs, with special consideration given those who do both,
- that develop capacity in individuals and communities by encouraging independence, transformation, and changed lives,
- that provide emergency relief to individuals and communities only in the short term,
- Who can engage with OFLC, its members, huddles, and missional communities, and involve them in mission work, evangelism, and outreach,
- having the greatest impact for God's Kingdom, and
- first serving the greater Denver Metropolitan area, followed by those serving in the US, and then those serving international communities.

OFLC's benevolence program does not provide funding for the following:

- political organizations,
- assistance designated specifically for travel,
- charities that primarily benefit pets or other animal related causes,
- organizations that support or endorse moral issues that are not biblically supported,
- organizations that are primarily "for profit", or
- individuals, except in relationship with a supporting organization that provides vetting of their ministry and financial need.

Benevolence Committee Guidelines

Our Father Lutheran Church

Source of Benevolence Funds

The sources of funds for OFLC benevolence giving include contributions received by OFLC designated for benevolence and general offerings received by OFLC.

Benevolence Requests

All members, as well as non-members of OFLC can request consideration for financial assistance for an organization or fund. Benevolence requests must be made to the Committee using a Benevolence Request Form, which will be generally available via the church's website or from the Committee.

Requests submitted will be prayerfully discerned by the Committee and evaluated against these Guidelines. On occasion, a representative of the requesting organization or individual may be asked to present further information about their ministry at a quarterly Committee meeting.